

Claim Listing and Claim Amendments. Please enter the following claim amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to measure a fluid volume contained in a body cavity comprising:

at least one transducer assembly positioned in view of ~~[[a]]~~ the body cavity and configured to transmit ultrasound of at least one acoustic power having a fundamental frequency to the body cavity, receive echoes having a harmonic frequency and the fundamental frequency reflected from surfaces associated with the body cavity, and convert the fundamental and harmonic frequency echoes into fundamental and harmonic signals; and

a computer in signal communication with the at least one transducer assembly, the computer having access to a look-up table of calibration factors and executable signal processing software with programmed instructions to acquire select harmonic echoes reflecting from the posterior wall, the lumen, and the anterior wall of the body cavity, determine at least one harmonic energy level value associated with the select echoes, to calculate a height and a depth of the body cavity associated with the select harmonic echoes, and to calculate ~~[[a]]~~ the fluid volume contained in the body cavity based upon the at least one harmonic energy level value associated with ~~[[an]]~~ the select harmonic echoes having passed through the fluid as a function of the calibration factors of the look-up table associated with the calculated height and depth of the body cavity.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the body cavity comprises a bladder and the fluid volume comprises urine.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one transducer assembly includes a plurality of transducer assemblies positioned for transmitting and receiving echoes in a selected order.



4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the at least one acoustic power includes a first power to ascertain the subject's attenuation of echoes having the fundamental frequency and a second power to ascertain the conditions in which the subject generates echoes having at least one harmonic frequency of the fundamental frequency.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed instructions are applied to the fundamental and harmonic signals derived from in ultrasound beams that have passed through the fluid of the body cavity.

6-7. Canceled.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the plurality of transducer assemblies includes an array of five.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the array of five transducer assemblies are respectively oriented at angles OA, OB, OC, OD, OE, to an axis orthogonal to the plane of the transducer assemblies array, the angles being approximately OA = -25°, OB = 0°, OC = +25°, OD = +25°, OE = +40°.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the transducer assemblies are configured to ascertain the fluid volume in terms of at least one of ranges of bladder filling and to indicate a clinically important bladder filling level.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein at least one of the plurality of transducer assemblies is coupled to a display to present within the look-up table of calibration factors inputted patient information, including at least one of gender, weight, age, and correction factors K derived from the look-up table of calibration factors-curve.



12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the look-up table of calibration factors includes a calibration curve of ascertaining ~~includes validated~~ volume measurements from the acoustic power contained in the transmitted ultrasound to optimize correction factors K in a "self learning process".

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein volume information of the body cavity or the fluid may be frozen via a hold/start button connected with the at least one of the plurality of transducer assemblies.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the plurality of transducer assemblies are positioned so that the echo reflecting areas of the walls of the cavity are approximately located in a single cross-sectional sagittal plane.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plurality of transducer assemblies are approximately disk-shaped.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the transducer assemblies are powered by a battery.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the transducer assemblies are configured to generate data enabling a display device to display correct caudal-cranial positioning of the transducer assemblies over a human bladder.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one transducer assembly is connected with a cable to a housing containing an input device, a processor, a display and a power supply unit.



19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one transducer assembly further includes an ultrasound coupling material covering the transducers for optimal acoustic coupling and patient convenience.

20. (Currently Amended) A method to determine a fluid volume occupying a body cavity comprising:

positioning at least one transducer assembly in view of ~~[[a]]~~ the body cavity;

transmitting, with the at least one transducer assembly, a fundamental ultrasound frequency of at least one acoustic power to the body cavity;

receiving, with the at least one transducer assembly, echoes having the fundamental ultrasound frequency and at least one harmonic frequency thereof associated with the body cavity;

converting the received ultrasound echoes into fundamental signals and harmonic signals;

selecting the fundamental signals and the harmonic signals derived from the ultrasound echoes that have reflected from the posterior wall of the body cavity, transited through the fluid contained within the body cavity, and transited through the anterior wall of the body cavity to the at least one transducer assembly;

measuring a height and a depth of the body cavity from the selected fundamental and harmonic signals; and

~~determining at least one harmonic energy level value associated with the echoes; and~~

~~calculating a fluid volume contained in the cavity based upon the at least one harmonic energy level value associated with an echo having passed through the fluid~~

calculating ~~[[a]]~~ the fluid volume contained in the body cavity as a function of associating the height and the depth with calibration factors in a look-up table.



21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein determining at least one harmonic energy level value associated with the echoes includes applying computer executable signal processing software with programmed instructions to differentiate information from the fundamental and harmonic signals.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein positioning includes positioning an array of transducer assemblies configured to transmit ultrasonic beams into the subject with a predetermined spatial location and mounting angle.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the array of transducer assemblies are acoustically coupled to the skin of the subject being measured using an acoustic coupling material.

24 (Currently Amended) An apparatus to determine a fluid volume occupying a bladder comprising:

at least one transducer assembly positioned in view of ~~[[a]]~~ the bladder and configured to transmit ultrasound of at least one acoustic power having a fundamental frequency to the bladder, receive echoes having a harmonic frequency and the fundamental frequency reflected from surfaces associated with the bladder, ~~and~~ convert the fundamental and harmonic frequency echoes into fundamental and harmonic signals, and identifying from the fundamental and harmonic signals those deriving from echoes having reflected from the posterior wall of the bladder and transiting through the fluid volume and anterior wall of the bladder; and

a computer in signal communication with the at least one transducer assembly, the computer having access to a look-up table of calibration factors and executable signal processing software with programmed instructions to determine at least one harmonic energy level value associated with the echoes and to measure a bladder height and a bladder depth and to calculate ~~[[a]]~~ the fluid volume contained in the bladder based upon the at least one harmonic energy level



value associated with an echo having passed through the fluid as a function of associating the bladder height and the bladder depth with the calibration factors in the look-up table.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the fluid volume comprises a urine volume.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the at least one transducer assembly is adapted to transmit a beam of ultrasound sufficient to entirely subtend the bladder.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the programmed instructions comprise signals derived from predetermined depth ranges for the determination of fluid volume in the bladder.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein transducer assembly comprises a curved single active piezo-electric element, shaped to form ultrasound beams at least one of a sphere sector and a cone sector.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the ultrasound transducer assembly includes a wide-angle lens to distribute the ultrasound beams to approximately encompass the bladder.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the transducer assembly is adapted to transmit at a fundamental ultrasound frequency and is adapted to receive the fundamental and higher harmonic signals of the transmitted frequency.

31-33. Canceled



34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the programmed instructions to determine at least one harmonic energy level value associated with the echoes include algorithms for determining the scattered power of higher harmonics in the received signal and comparing the scattered power with the backscattered power in the fundamental frequency to calculate the ~~urine~~ fluid volume.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the at least one acoustic power includes a low transmit power and a high transmit power to enhance bladder filling measurement and eliminate patient variation due to instance obesity using combined pulse sequences arising from the low transmit and high transmit powers.

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the combined pulse sequences arise from echo signals at a depth close to the position of the average anterior bladder wall in determining the fluid volume ~~of fluid~~ to limit the effects of variation in the body proximal to the transducer assembly.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the combined pulse sequences arise from echo signals may be altered by varying the transmitted power in subsequent pulse transmissions, such that linear and non-linear echo signals from various depths can be compared to eliminate effects of patient variation.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the variation in calculating the fluid volume ~~calculations~~ may be in the form of a calibration curve derived from the look up table ~~at least one of a look up table and a calibration curve~~.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the at least one transducer assembly include a display adapted to indicate a volume above a predetermined threshold level, the threshold level being determined according to a specified medical application.



40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the display indicates a filling below a predetermined threshold level, the threshold level being determined according to a specified medical application.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the at least one transducer assembly is housed separately and connected to the rest of the apparatus with a flexible cable.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the at least one transducer assembly comprises a combination of a first acoustic active surface for optimal transmission and reception at the fundamental frequency and second acoustic active surface for optimal reception of the harmonic echo signals.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the at least one transducer assembly comprises a plurality of ultrasound transducers mounted thereon for transmitting and receiving a plurality of ultrasound signals into the bladder at least one of plural angles of incidence and plural spatial locations for providing a narrow beam direction in the dorsal direction to detect the anterior and posterior bladder wall.

44. (Currently Amended) A method to determine a fluid volume occupying a body cavity comprising:

positioning at least one transducer assembly in view of a body cavity;

transmitting a fundamental ultrasound frequency of at least one acoustic power to the body cavity;

receiving echoes having the fundamental ultrasound frequency and at least one harmonic frequency thereof associated with the body cavity;

converting the received ultrasound echoes into fundamental signals and harmonic signals;



identifying among the fundamental and harmonic signals those being associated with select echoes having reflected from the posterior wall of the body cavity and transited through the fluid contained within the body cavity and the anterior wall of the body cavity;

determining at least one harmonic energy level value associated with the echoes;

measuring a height and a depth of the body cavity from signals derived from the select echoes; and

calculating a fluid volume contained in the cavity based upon the at least one harmonic energy level value associated the select echoes using calibration factors contained in a look-up table to convert the height and the depth to the fluid volume with an echo having passed through the fluid; and

~~adjusting the calculation by comparison with at least one of a look-up table and a calibration curve.~~

45. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a body cavity of a subject, measuring the volume of the body cavity and a fluid volume contained in the body cavity comprising:

positioning at least one transducer assembly in view of the body cavity;

transmitting a fundamental ultrasound frequency of at least one acoustic power to the body cavity;

receiving echoes having the fundamental ultrasound frequency and at least one harmonic frequency thereof associated with the body cavity;

converting the received ultrasound echoes into fundamental signals and harmonic signals;

identifying among the fundamental and harmonic signals those being associated with select echoes having reflected from the posterior wall of the body cavity and transited through the fluid contained within the body cavity and the anterior wall of the body cavity;

measuring a height and a depth of the body cavity from signals derived from the select echoes;

determining boundary information of the cavity from the harmonic signals in terms of the depth, the height, and a correction factor, K obtainable from a look-up table; and



calculating the fluid volume from a calibration curve obtainable from the look-up table at
~~least one of the volume of the cavity from the boundary information and the fluid volume in the~~
~~body cavity as a product of depth, height, and correction factor K; and~~

~~adjusting the calculation by comparison with at least one of a look up table and a~~
~~calibration curve.~~

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the correction factor K is obtainable from the look up table and the calibration curve.

47. (Cancelled)

